

# Teaching Excellence in Adult Literacy (TEAL): Formative Assessment

## *Summary and Objectives*

**Audience:** Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructors

**Summary:** Formative assessment refers to both the formal and informal processes that teachers and students use collaboratively to gather evidence of student learning for the purpose of improving learning. Formative assessment occurs while the learning is taking place, as opposed to a summative assessment that typically occurs at the end of a learning unit or course to determine what a student has learned. Formative assessment is a process, not a one-time event; it is assessment for learning, rather than assessment of learning, as with summative assessment. You will explore strategies for conducting informal and ongoing assessments of your adult education students' progress and use that information to adjust your teaching to ensure that all students learn.

**Objectives:**

- Define formative assessment and its benefits for classroom instruction
- Describe strategies for using formative assessment in the adult education classroom
- Identify a goal for using one or more formative assessment strategies

## *Course Logistics*

**Format:** Facilitated, asynchronous, online

**Estimated Completion Time:** approximately 2 hours per week; 6 hours total

**Expectations:** Participants are expected to read and post at least once in each of the course discussion forums; submit the required journal activities; watch recorded presentations; read the background readings and resource pages of the course; set a goal for their professional growth; and complete assignments and the final evaluation. Download a Certificate of Completion upon successful completion of course requirements.

## Course Topics

### Let's get started

- *Journal*: Rate your knowledge: What do you know about formative assessment?
- *Reading*: Face-to-face learning vs. online learning

### What is formative assessment?

- *Readings*: TEAL Formative Assessment fact sheet and articles Questioning in the Mathematics Classroom, Illuminating Understanding, and Fair Assessment Practices
- *Video*: Formative Assessment: What Is It? Why Is It Important?

### Formative assessment: Let's put it in context

- Practicing Feedback: Writing
- Practicing Feedback: Math
- *Videos*: Teacher Feedback on Student Writing, and Teacher Feedback in Math

### Assignments: Choose one

- Use and reflect on a formative assessment technique
- Reflect on your feedback practice
- Explore formative assessment in greater depth

### Self-assessment

- *Questionnaire*: Answer 10 questions related to feedback in writing or in math

### Take time to reflect on your own goals and progress

- *Journal*: Set a personal teaching goal for using formative assessment techniques in your classes

**For information on course availability,  
contact the LINCS Professional Development Center at [pdcenter@lincs.ed.gov](mailto:pdcenter@lincs.ed.gov)**

<http://lincs.ed.gov>



Twitter: [@LINCS\\_ED](https://twitter.com/LINCS_ED)



LinkedIn: [LINCS\\_ED group](#)



YouTube: [LincsEd](#)